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Letter from Anne Whitney, Munich, Germany, 1868 July 13

Anne Whitney

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Munich - July 13 - 68 10 — 1

Two - is allowing for stops on the way. 3 days nearer to you my dear Mother, Father Sarah & home untroubled - but first - I must enlarge a little on the subject of Chloroform - I think I told you in my last that I had a pretty lively face ache - from what seemed a very slight cause - I did not know what a sensitive nature the solid bone of a tooth has, quite outside of the nerve proper. I bore it all day Sat. & Sunday. & at 10 o'clock Sunday night - the Dr. came. The pain then seemed to have centred in a tooth previously filled, but in good condition & men age in a curative style, as I imagine it does with Mother, thro' the cheek into the eye - & it is on Mother's acct. that I enter into these particulars. - for a drop of chloroform in cotton wool, laid on the gum above the tooth & renewed 2 or 3 times every 10 or 15 minutes set the aches & thro' in a very short time, & insured me a good night's sleep. Since then an occasional nervous touch only has remained as witness of the brief but somewhat severe insensibility period passed thro'. The first, & almost immediate effect of the Chloroform was to destroy the burning heat in the cheek from the pain. I wish you wd. try it with Mother when she is suffering from neuralgia. For a frame you can procure about a thimble & half full of the liquid. dip it upon a piece of cotton as large as the top of yr. thumb. give it a squeeze, & get rid

of any excess & apply it between the gum
& cheek over the lip-tooth (with mother).
renew it every 15 minutes till she falls
asleep. It causes one to Spit a few
times - for it is very pungent & diffusive
& acts on the saliva - but it does no
harm & I swallow the more agreeable
oil - & so. How often our romishes
have suffered from aching teeth when this
remedy - had we but known it - was so near.
Well - July 3 - at 8 o'clock in the Evng. I commenced
as safe in the cars looking towards
Florence where arriving at 10 o'clock AM.
we stayed over the following night & took
train train Friday at 10 o'clock for Verona
another 12 hours full - When we drove
to the hotel at 10 1/2 by the street light
we were able to form but little idea of
the quaint Ital. City - there was only
opportunity to observe as we rounded
a corner - the two gentlemen standing
together & talking. The next morning
I could hardly eat my breakfast so con-
fused I was with what in the light of
reason gives the Tom Foolish desire
to see the Sepulchre of R & J. The heck-
men were anxious to do things in the normal
order. First this church, then that bridge
& so on. Mr. Said we imperiously & from
the chest - "The Tomb". It is about a
mile from the hotel - on the outskirts of
the town. We stopped at a shed where

stone-cutting ~~was~~ carried on - passed thro
it - rang a bell at the end were taken in
charge by a youth of 10 summers - walked
thro a long ~~stone~~ ^{stone} & arrived in time at
another shed. Have then they wish,
apparently said 10 years - pointing to a
horse - trough - It might have been - but
really was a sarcophagus without a lid.
of very rough stone in wh. the bodies of
R & J had once lain. Doubtless it was
once a stately tomb - I smell broken columns
were piled up about it - & the whole looks
like just what it is & thing just - Clutch
from oblivion & the elements by a new
creating hand. From there we went
to the house of the Capulita. Palace
once perhaps not much so now perhaps
nor very large. With a balcony on the
3d story - from wh. I ever Gabriel must
have spoken in other than a whisper
where he held the car in the narrow
st. below. In my David's eye however
the real picture still is drawn. The
marble steps & balustrade with the
southern foliage hump the righting all
about. The overhanging balcony awed
while all the rest of the palace
slumps & the perfect Ital. night - So
we stopped in Verona. When I looked
I found that he had left a stage before.
It didn't make much difference for we have
caught up with him again. The old

town is put down in Italy as very
interesting - but we were greatly charmed
with it - The color the quaint old things -
churches so old - the Roman amphitheatre
from the ~~topmost~~^{uppermost} arches of wh. San
Gaetano took the stones to build
the great bridge spanning the Adige.
A magnificent circus still entire
in Circumax - only the top most arches
& the outside rim wanting. The stone
seats remain where 72,000 persons
are able to sit - & the Imperial &
sarcophagi galleries - In the heart
of the city - exceed in ^{high} open view
fence are the tombs of the Sigmari
in ~~the~~ of Verona - & among them that
of San Gaetano of whom you may
remember reading in M. Cyp. life
the friend with whom Dante found
~~consolation~~^{consolation} in his exile - & a home
of rather doubtful comfort & peace.
We left Verona at 2 P.M. Sat.
& arrived here at 5 1/2 (quadruple (land)
AM. We cross the Alps in this route
by the Brenner Pass. the lowest of
the Mountain ways & called the best
interesting. ~~we~~ rail all the way - so
as it was a delightful road - & much
as we wanted sleep sometimes it was
impossible to take it - except at night.
You will follow us on the map from

Verona into the Tyrol - In our truck
(reached at 11 night & reserved for our
return) thence to Innsbruck where
we stayed an hour & on. The Tyrol is
lovely - most like the White Mts. but
grander - larger with magnificent
broad valleys & openings right & left
into green pastures & wildernesses
beyond. In the Tyrol there seems room
to live - & the towns, the villages, the
little clumps of 2 or 3 houses & a
church ~~scattered~~^{scattered} all along the country
in beautiful situations & all so clean
so thriving - so handsomely built
attract the eye. The train passes
thru with a stately movement - slowly
ascending to the max. height - & descending
the descent - by a strong application of
the brakes wh. gives sometimes a not
over pleasant sensation of a lack of
oil somewhere. We enjoyed too this view
the road between Innsbruck & Bolzano in
previous journey taken in the night -
only that there are as many as 20 mn.
miles. Some of them 10 minutes long in &
out of which you whistle from darkness
to glory & back again in a way that is
slight aggravating to the traveler. Finally
thru Italy in the middle of July we have
not felt a moment's discomfort from

heat. Two summers of this ~~exposed~~
make me wish that this is a better
attained climate than our own - Here
I miss the chillless mildness of Rome
& am at this moment sitting with a
shawl about me (noon)

We are established
most fortunately at a sort of Pension
where we have 2 rooms - bed room & parlour
on a broad clear quiet street - as are
all the streets here they say - & where
we are served ^{with meals} in our own room (there
is no public table) for 6 frs. a day - all
included - but candles. We were directed
here by an acquaintance in Rome - whose
mother & sister are here & whom we find
quite agreeable. Also we learn to day
that a family of Adair's acquaintances
who were in Rome last winter are in
the house. ^{the house} The health & airiness are
in plain contrast to the aspect of cities
in Italy - Southern I especially - & there
on the opposite sidewalk goes a man
reading with his book touching his nose -
next a woman with 3 glasses of beer
on a waiter. Staid quiet people looking
like respectable folk at home & few
of any sort are in the streets. So diff. to
in Italy! - A lady in the opposite house
every now & then appears at the window. She
has white hair & wears a cap - & I call her

mother. She looks so much like my mother -
her house looks like home - where the houses
~~are~~ & the streets are merely conveniences for
the houses. Go from one to the other. I wonder
if any occasion ever fills the streets. Mrs.
Madon says the children don't scream here - that
is unnatural. I call for treatment -
you come the Shower wh. is the daily shower
this year in Europe. Grows in sheets - shut
the windows. It is like shutting out & entering
on a frying pan. The guide - Cook calls
Munich unhealthy. Don't know why. It is
the highest city in Europe & clean as a fresh
sheet. Has never seen anything but water. In
fact I believe every city has a lake into town
in bad reputation for healthiness. More so
the Cook sounds than the woman who takes
care of us & of whom we have an affection.
There are few if any pleasures & that I be-
lieve is a bad sign. Always keep
this formula in mind & generally be seen much
anxiety. The chief sign I have against it
is that they are at war with Rome & always
have the best of it. I sit five minutes
~~currently~~ without breaking up the entire
arrangement of things in order to make a
total or partial investigation is something
that takes all my faculties by surprise.
But when I get used to it again, will
be not unpleasant. Mother appears
at the window opens it - evidently thinks
the shower is over. I say that is the
last of it. No more of it. I have heard
may take a little shower. I forgot to
mention that we stopped at Padua for

an hour & liked the glimpse we had of it in
a little walk - It was at Padua you remember
that Dr. Ballan's lived from whom Portia
took her credentials - Padua Venice Verona
& Milan lie on a line east & west & about
equidistant - When at Padua we are not
far from Venice - when I am longing to go but
July is not a healthy month there - & we did
not see Venice as we wanted to stay at
least a week or two - Dr. Gould thinks his
fever is a return of one taken there last
July. The Williams' were intending to go - &
I don't say will experience no ill effects from
it - the weather is every where so cool -
Wed. 15 - We have spent 2 mornings in
one gallery & another morning will hardly
sheer it - It is a beautiful collection.
Two large rooms are filled with Rubens
whom it is well to see in this way. The
better to understand his great reputation.
Other there are some great works of the
Ital. masters - Titian & Veronese
bes. all others - & long suites of rooms
devoted to German & Dutch masters of
2 centuries back. We have hardly enjoyed
any gallery so much. It is refreshing
for one thing to see something beside saints
& devils & devils. Munich has been
made a sort of art-centre by the interest
taken in art by King Louis - who has
made a most fair for the magnificent
collections of sculpture & painting there
are here - Louis for some reason abdicated
& it was he who a year ago was living -

few doors from ¹⁰ to ³ in Rome - & he
will die. Why a man of such en-
lightened spirit & breadth of ^{heart} ~~view~~ ^{view} ~~view~~
and his days in Rome I don't understand
Marshall is Catholic - out of 1600 ^{refuge}
1600 only are Protestant - but German
good faith holds its own against a false
religious education. It is soothing to get
among people who do not seek to
cheat you - a kind of people who if they
promise to their loss will make their
promise good - a thing never known in
Italy unless there is a written contract.
I think you may feel a little soli-
tary about us in these days & will
not wait for the day to come round
to send - Ady has had a little when
measured in the shoulder wh. recalls
very vividly to us our beloved Perch's
arms in the same way. She is better
& I am sure she has something which
will cure it - utterly. I shall send the
net if it works well. I am great thank
that you also may have relief from
your warden's fears that this is some
other suggestion. I fear you miss Dr
Prinett's skill. But do not go to
Aliphetz - The liver will none of it.
I am perfectly well - I find the climate
cool - but the change is good & bracing.
We have admirable fare - & there is upper
or coke with all.

- this

I trust you are all as well. both you
at home & you who travel & are often
not going. Do take a little change here
this summer? I wd. that Katy were
able to go! - We must all travel in the
year together one of these days - but
in the mean while I want to feel that
you are having the needed stimulus that
comes thro' a little change out of the ordinary
routine. We saw this morning a lovely
child's head by Geo. Dolce wh. reminds
us both of Annie - the darling, for-
gotten child!

When you spoke of Mother's
trip to N. Y. I did not help wishing she
could go to the White Mts. - That has always
seemed to me a perfectly practicable journey
for her & one that wd. repay her for the
trouble. - one stage to Portland & a rest
another to Shelburne or Johnson. - it wd
be not at all fatiguing taken the
way - Mrs. White & Mother - & two or
three of you to accompany them. How de-
licious it wd. be! Well - I am too far
off from you to lay plans for you -
So I will close this letter & wrap it
today - I do hope to hear better news of
Dr. Bristol in the next. Love to all
from Abby too - I shall try to
keep a sort of journal so that you may
see us in all our jumps - out & coming in.
There is so much to see here - & so that
we may see it all with you - as it were.